

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 01394 241459Z
ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS ROME 1394

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: CONFINDUSTRIA PRESIDENT CARLI COMES OUT AGAINST PCI
PARTICIPATION IN GOI

FOLLOWING TURIN 0035 TO AMEMBASSY ROME, INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE,
GENOA, MILAN, NAPLES, PALERMO, TRIESTE, RPTD FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE
UNCLAS TURIN 0035

EMBASSY ALSO PASS USIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: CONFINDUSTRIA PRESIDENT CARLI COMES OUT AGAINST
P.C.I. PARTICIPATION IN GOI

1. SPEAKING TO INDUSTRIALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF ALESSANDRIA,
PROVINCIAL CAPITAL IN PIEDMONT REGION, CONFINDUSTRIA PRESIDENT
AND FORMER BANK OF ITALY PRESIDENT, GUIDO CARLI SAID ON JAN.
19 THAT HE HAD BEEN MISTAKEN CONCERNING THE P.C.I. AND
BERLINGUER AND HAD ABANDONED THE IDEA OF FAVORING COMMUNIST
PARTICIPATION IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

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2. CARLI'S REMARKS WERE BASICALLY IGNORED BY THE PIEDMONT
PRESS EXCEPT FOR INDEPENDENT, LEFTIST-ORIENTED GAZZETTA
DEL POPOLO WHICH ON JAN. 20 GAVE CARLI'S REMARKS PROMINENT
COVERAGE. WE CALLED THE HOST ASSOCIATION IN ALESSANDRIA AND
OFFICIALS THERE CONFIRMED THE CONTENTS OF THE PRESS REPORT.

3. PERTINENT PORTIONS OF THE GAZZETTA DEL POPOLO ARTICLE

FOLLOW:

QUOTE WITH AN APOLOGETIC COUNTENANCE, A LITTLE EMBARRASSED AT LAST, GUIDO CARLI TODAY EXPLAINED TO THE ALESSANDRIA GROUP OF INDUSTRIALISTS THE REASON WHY HE HAS ABANDONED THE IDEA OF FAVORING COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY. THE PRESIDENT OF CONFINDUSTRIA STATED: "I THOUGHT BERLINGUER HAD OVERCOME THE CONCEPT OF SOCIAL CLASS DISTINCTION, BUT I WAS MISTAKEN."

A SIMPLE STATEMENT -- PERHAPS TOO MUCH SO -- WHICH, HOWEVER, MET WITH THE ENTREPRENEURS' COMPLETE SATISFACTION AND INSTANTLY DISPELLED THEIR UNEASINESS. TO A "RELIEVED" AUDIENCE, THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ITALY CONVEYED THE FEELING THAT HIS CHANGED ATTITUDE IS OF A FINAL NATURE. AS A RESULT, HE WAS ALSO ABLE TO INDULGE IN HARSH CRITICISM OF THE PCI, OF ITS "DOUBLE-BARRELED" STAND, OF THE "INCONSISTENCIES" WHICH CHARACTERIZE THE PARTY AT THIS STAGE OF ITALIAN LIFE. "THE COMMUNISTS MUST DECIDE," HE WENT ON TO OBSERVE, "WHETHER THEY ARE FOR OR AGAINST THE ESTABLISHMENT. THEY CANNOT SAY THEY ARE IN FAVOR OF A FREE ECONOMY AND THEN CRITICIZE OUR EFFORTS ONLY BECAUSE THEY FALL WITHIN THAT LINE, BECAUSE THEY ARE INDEED CONSISTENT -- ONLY TOO CONSISTENT -- WITH A FREE TYPE OF ECONOMY. UNQUOTE. WRIGHT UNQUOTE.GARDNER

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